ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICS 75, 119–120 (1989)

Book Reviews

ROBERT S. ROTH (Ed.), *The Bellman Continuum, a Collection of the Works of Richard E. Bellman*, World Scientific, 1986, 868 pp.

E. BISHOP, *Selected Papers*, World Scientific, 1986, 414 pp.

Both the above mathematicians deserve to be better known and better appreciated than they are. Bellman's originality was lost to the public because of his weakness for over-publishing, a weakness that the public does not forgive (much as we would like to be judged by our best paper, we may expect the malicious crowd to judge us by a quotient obtained by dividing the value of our best paper by the number of papers we have published). Bishop's originality was also lost to the cause of constructivity (the malicious crowd views anyone with a cause, no matter how just, as a crackpot, and concludes that all of his papers must therefore be weird). Both authors read better when collected in a volume: Bellman, because only his best papers are to be found here (and the original, and clearest, papers explaining some of his best ideas, such as dynamic programming and invariant embedding), and Bishop, because his papers form a natural logical sequence.

J. TOMIYAMA, *Invitation to C*-Algebras and Topological Dynamics*, World Scientific, 1987, 167 pp.

This is really an invitation, complete with lures, and with selected theorems good enough to whet anyone's appetite. The reader is brought up to date on the unifying force of the concept of the dynamical system, in both the commutative and the non-commutative cases. This book will make a good textbook, if there are any graduate students left a year from now.

M. KAKU, *Introduction to Superstrings*, Springer, 1988, 568 pp.

Despite the modest title, this is anything but an introduction; what it does is recast in the language of the physicist (that is, in the absurdly conservative notation derived from the habit of never changing the notation chosen by the discoverer, if such a discoverer is a physicist, and of changing it immediately, if such a discoverer is a mathematician) some recent mathematical ideas, and rather thoroughly at that. There should be a parallel book for mathematicians.

J. R. PORTER AND R. G. WOODS, *Extensions and Absolutes of Hausdorff Spaces*, Springer, 1988, 856 pp.

Spaces that are rather disconnected have become the last refuge of the concept of a topological spaces that the Founding Fathers had in mind. In these days of concreteness, it is refreshing to find a frankly abstract treatise that brings back a lost paradise. Woe betide the House of Springer, for refusing to set this handsome volume into type!

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